



## **Blue Dog Coalition Energy Principles**

*111<sup>th</sup> Session of Congress*

Energy independence is a matter of national security and economic security. The Blue Dog Coalition believes in policies that increase U.S. energy security and reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy because America's continued prosperity depends on the availability of reliable, affordable energy.

Climate change issues must be addressed, and many of the options that address this challenge are consistent with efforts to increase energy self-sufficiency. Blue Dogs support the promotion of a forward-looking, market-based, comprehensive national energy strategy.

Our nation is blessed with a diverse energy portfolio of traditional fossil fuels and viable renewable energy sources. Increasing domestic energy supplies and enhancing our energy infrastructure are the critical components of a balanced national energy strategy. The Coalition is committed to a policy of increased energy production and the environmentally sound use of all energy sources.

Congress should also support policies that encourage research and development in new energy technologies that promote the greatest level of conservation at home, in business, and in industry. Reducing national energy intensity through energy efficient applications can save consumers and business billions in extra energy costs while also reducing polluting emissions. The Blue Dog energy principles will strengthen our energy security, diversify our energy mix, provide Americans with reliable and affordable energy sources, and support a long term solution to climate change concerns.

## **1. ENERGY “PAYGO”**

- Blue Dogs believe that energy policy should not result in a net loss of domestic energy.

## **2. CLIMATE CHANGE**

- Broad scientific consensus indicates that climate change is underway. Climate change caused by human activity should be addressed both by the United States and by other nations.
- Climate change has developed over a significant period of time. Blue Dogs believe that a methodical, long term solution is the best approach to solving the problem. Blue Dogs also believe that climate change solutions should not export jobs overseas.
- When calculating greenhouse gas emissions, Blue Dogs encourage continued dialogue where consensus is lacking as to whether the current economic and environmental modeling available is accurate enough to make important policy decisions.

## **3. FUEL DIVERSITY**

- A secure and diverse energy supply is critical to our future success as a nation. Blue Dogs support policies that encourage fuel diversity, add to existing power generation capacity, and decrease our reliance on foreign sources of energy.
- Long term U.S. energy independence will come from conservation, energy efficiency, and domestic energy sources such as renewable energy sources, biofuels, cellulosic ethanol, alternative energy, and other sources of domestic energy. In the meantime, our energy needs depend upon coal, nuclear power, and oil and gas. Blue Dogs support policies that encourage sustainable energy development without picking winners or losers.

## **4. CONSISTENT AND TRANSPARENT FEDERAL POLICY**

- Predictable long term policy helps the market and keeps energy prices stable for consumers. Blue Dogs believe that Congress should take a long term view of energy policy.
- Regulatory reform can help businesses become more efficient and can improve consumers’ access to affordable energy.

## **5. AFFORDABLE ENERGY**

- Rate stability and affordable energy prices are key Blue Dog priorities. We also support equitable tax policies that encourage production and energy efficiency.
- Reducing access to responsible energy exploration costs consumers and high energy prices disproportionately affect poorer consumers, both in urban and rural areas. Without domestic production or with heavily curtailed production, energy prices cannot stay affordable for all Americans.

## **6. ELECTRICITY**

- Blue Dogs support policies that encourage investment in transmission infrastructure, distributed generation, and a more efficient electricity grid.

## **7. TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT**

- Energy policy should build on American strengths: innovation and independence. Research and development investments are critical for long term energy security.
- Blue Dogs recognize that key technologies central to solving climate change may not yet be commercially viable and should be a priority of our research efforts. Government should provide a level playing field and should avoid picking winners and losers.

## **8. ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

- Energy efficient technologies and energy conservation are among the most important ways for the U.S. to reduce its energy consumption, benefiting both consumers and producers of energy.
- Blue Dogs support the furtherance of energy efficient technologies including green buildings, energy saving appliances, advanced lighting technology, and better fuel economy standards. We also support a more energy efficient transportation system that increases productivity, such as standardizing federal highway truck weights.

###